

MTS-3290US



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: T. Kudo et al. : Art Unit: 2171

Serial No.: 09/990,032 : Examiner:

Filed: November 21, 2001 :

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FOR: GROUP FORMING SYSTEM,  
GROUP FORMING APPARATUS, GROUP  
FORMING METHOD, PROGRAM, AND  
MEDIUM

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

S I R :

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98 and to the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the Examiner in charge of the above-identified application is requested to consider and make of record the references listed on the PTO 1449 (R&P) submitted herewith. A copy of each of the listed reference is also enclosed.


Although the information submitted herewith may be "material" to the Examiner's consideration of the subject application, this submission is not intended to constitute an admission that such information is "prior art" as to the claimed invention.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made.

The enclosed reference is not in the English language, but an English translation of the specification and claims thereof is attached to the copy of the reference submitted herewith.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application. No first Official Action has yet been received and it is presumed that none has yet been mailed. No fee or certification is required. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Allan Ratner, Reg. No. 19,717  
Attorney for Applicants

Enclosures:

PTO Form 1449

Copy of (1) Reference

Dated: January 30, 2002

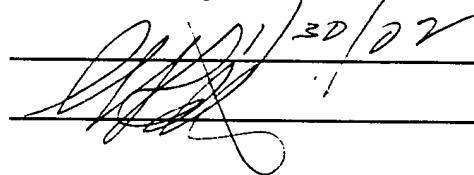
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The Assistant Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. 18-0350 of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on:

  
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| FORM PTO-1449<br>(Rev. 2-32)  |  | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE |  | ATTY. DOCKET NO.<br>MTS-3290US   |  | SERIAL NO<br>09/990,032 |  |
| Information Disclosure<br>Statement by Applicant<br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |  |  |  | APPLICANT<br>T. Kudo et al.      |  |                         |  |
|   |  |  |  | FILING DATE<br>November 21, 2001 |  | GROUP<br>2171           |  |

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## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## OTHER DOCUMENTS

(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

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|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Examiner | Date Considered |
|----------|-----------------|

**Examiner:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.